

Appendix table 7-11

Correct answers to nanotechnology questions, by respondent characteristic: 2010

(Percent)

Characteristic	<i>Nanotechnology involves manipulating extremely small units of matter, such as individual atoms, in order to produce better materials. (True)</i>	<i>The properties of nanoscale materials often differ fundamentally and unexpectedly from the properties of the same materials at larger scales. (True)</i>	<i>Nanotechnology knowledge index^a</i>
All adults (<i>n</i> = 963)	31	18	14
Sex			
Male (<i>n</i> = 397)	40	24	19
Female (<i>n</i> = 566)	23	13	11
Formal education			
<High school (<i>n</i> = 119)	10	4	4
High school graduate (<i>n</i> = 296)	23	12	9
Some college (<i>n</i> = 243)	34	20	15
Baccalaureate (<i>n</i> = 205)	45	25	21
Graduate/professional (<i>n</i> = 100)	49	36	29
Science/mathematics education ^b			
Low (<i>n</i> = 236)	18	13	8
Middle (<i>n</i> = 103)	45	27	22
High (<i>n</i> = 103)	50	28	23
Family income (quartile) ^c			
Top (<i>n</i> = 185)	43	25	20
Second (<i>n</i> = 230)	37	20	17
Third (<i>n</i> = 191)	23	14	8
Bottom (<i>n</i> = 250)	27	16	13
Age (years) ^c			
18–24 (<i>n</i> = 53)	39	12	11
25–34 (<i>n</i> = 179)	30	18	14
35–44 (<i>n</i> = 165)	32	17	13
45–54 (<i>n</i> = 183)	33	17	15
55–64 (<i>n</i> = 173)	34	22	18
≥65 (<i>n</i> = 204)	22	18	13
Trend factual knowledge of science scale (quartile) ^d			
Top (<i>n</i> = 248)	59	37	30
Second (<i>n</i> = 290)	35	18	15
Third (<i>n</i> = 223)	19	11	8
Bottom (<i>n</i> = 202)	5	2	1
How much have you heard about nanotechnology? ^e			
A lot (<i>n</i> = 47)	68	46	35
Some (<i>n</i> = 197)	67	44	35
Just a little (<i>n</i> = 284)	50	24	19

^aPercentage of respondents who answered both questions correctly.^bLow = ≤5 high school and college science/math courses; middle = 6–8 courses; high = ≥9 courses. Questions asked of 485 survey respondents; categories do not add to total because "don't know" and "refused" responses not shown.^cCategories do not add to total *n* because "don't know" and "refused" responses not shown.^dQuartiles based on percentage of nine questions in trend factual knowledge of science scale answered correctly. See notes to appendix table 7-8 for questions.^eNanotechnology knowledge questions asked only of the 528 survey respondents who had heard about nanotechnology.

SOURCE: University of Chicago, National Opinion Research Center, General Social Survey (2010).